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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 15, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JACK KINGSTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:
A personal "Te Deum":

You are God; we praise You.
You are the Lord; we acclaim You.
You are the eternal Father;
All creation worships You.
Save Your people, Lord, and bless
Your inheritance.
Govern and uphold these now and always.
Day by day we bless You.
We praise Your name forever.
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
Have mercy on us, Lord have mercy.
Lord, show us Your love and mercy;
For we put our trust in You.
In You, Lord, is our hope;
And we shall never hope in vain.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OUR CHAPLAIN, DANIEL COUGHLIN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our House Chaplain, Father Daniel Coughlin, is retiring from his duties after 11 years of serving the United States House of Representatives.

Since our forefathers established this tradition in Congress in 1789, the House Chaplain has provided spiritual guidance, hope, and heavenly blessings through prayer every day.

Each new day, Father Coughlin enters the House Chamber with his happy Irish spirit and a twinkle in his eyes, and prays to the Almighty so that Members will walk humbly and wise in the Lord's sight. Father Coughlin has been here during the troubling days of 9/11, during good times, and times that aren't so good.

Father Coughlin, from Chicago, has been ordained for 50 years, and has found time to be an angel to the poor in Calcutta, India, where he lived with members of Mother Teresa's community. Over the years, this House has needed Father Coughlin's guidance, for, after all, you have to be in good with the Lord to pray for politicians every day.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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My prayer for Father Coughlin is that he continues to be a blessing to our Nation and to the people he encounters who need spiritual help—and as he often says when ending his prayers—“both now and forever.”

And that’s just the way it is.

THE REPUBLICAN MISINFORMATION MISSION

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. We’ve heard your last prayer, Father Dan. We wish you the best. You have served us very well.

Mr. Speaker, I was on the floor last night, and I heard the debate. Clearly, there is a massive misinformation mission on the part of the Republicans.

I heard repeatedly that they want to save Medicare. No. They want to end it with a voucher, costing seniors in the future at least \$6,000 a year. They say they want to preserve the safety net. No. They want to shred it.

According to nonpartisan analysis, their proposal calls for spending on items other than Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid—but including defense—to fall from 12 percent of GDP last year to 6 percent in 2022 and just 3.5 percent of GDP in the long run. We are not going to shred defense. What their proposal means in shredding the safety net is that they have become radicals instead of conservatives.

THE PRESIDENT STILL STANDS FOR THE TAX MAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Thank you, Father Dan Coughlin, for your service.

Mr. Speaker, as Americans know, today is the annual Tax Day, April 15. I bring this up because, finally, the President has joined in the discussion of our country’s dangerous deficits. On Wednesday, he announced his scheme to reduce the out-of-control deficits his administration promoted—raising taxes—proving yet again that liberals still look to the tax man to solve their inability to manage a budget.

Americans do not want this. The tea party is correct: taxed enough already, T-E-A. Raising taxes on small businesses does nothing but kill jobs while keeping unemployment levels above 9 percent.

Liberals miss the point: The Federal Government does not have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem. Cutting spending and borrowing needs to be the topic of discussion. Raising taxes does not.

House Republicans continue to lead the way to limit spending. Courageous Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN has presented a commonsense plan which brings current reckless spending under control.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NATIONAL GUARDSMAN SPECIALIST DENNIS POULIN

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor National Guardsman Specialist Dennis Poulin, a recently fallen hero of our country.

Dennis “Danny” Poulin, a 26-year-old native of Cumberland, Rhode Island, gave his life for our Nation, on Thursday, March 31, 2011, while serving in Afghanistan.

He, like so many of our brave men and women in uniform, executed the mission in Afghanistan with dedication and extraordinary competence. Specialist Poulin certainly did all we asked of him. This brave young man served our country with honor and made the ultimate sacrifice. He served as a mortarman in the Guard’s Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment.

I want to take a moment to recognize Specialist Poulin’s parents and family and to thank them for his service to our country. Besides his parents, Doris Poulin and Richard Renau, Specialist Poulin leaves his son, Nikolous Cullen Poulin; fiancée, Ashley Shylene Simon; two sisters, Jennifer Poulin and Angelique Renau; and extended family, all who mourn his loss.

Let us honor his life, service and sacrifice, and let us help those who mourn by joining together in thanks for Specialist Poulin’s valor and courage on behalf of our great Nation. All who knew him, and those who didn’t but who know the sacrifice he has made, will miss him and will remain grateful for his service to our country.

BANKRUPTCY OR PROSPERITY

(Mr. MCCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCOTTER. I too would like to join in the chorus we’ve heard today to thank Father Coughlin for bearing the cross that is Congress.

Mr. Speaker, as we hear the debates that will continue on into today on the budget, we will hear much hue and cry; but when we look at the reality, the Ryan House Republican proposal is really a very modest attempt to sustain the welfare state, and I believe it is an important one.

When history looks back after the momentous changes in which we find ourselves, it will view the Ryan House Republican budget as but a baby step in escaping Big Government’s implosion. It is a responsible course; it is a responsible choice because it is between bankruptcy or prosperity; and I and the American people will choose prosperity.

□ 0910

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I join the chorus of those thanking Father Coughlin for his service and dedication and wishing him well.

I also rise today in observance of the National Day of Silence.

Today is the 14th year we have commemorated the National Day of Silence, a time when students across the country remain silent for the whole day to draw attention to discrimination toward their LGBT peers.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth and their allies face verbal and physical bullying on a daily basis just for being who they are, for expressing their sexuality, or for demonstrating a non-normative gender identity. I am proud that my constituents are calling for a stop to this harassment, and I encourage all Americans to join them.

Our Nation is at her best when we are celebrating our differences, not punishing individuals for being different. I am proud to say that in my district Queer Youth and allies work together to make life better for queer youth. Middle schools and high schools in my district host student-run Gay-Straight Alliances, which create a supportive space so that queer youth do not feel isolated. My district also hosts Queer Youth conferences and award events that celebrate our queer youth.

Though many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender advocates and straight allies are silent today, we in Congress must never be silent.

CONSUMER PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, JIM MATHESON and I introduced H.R. 1528, the Consumer Privacy Protection Act. Our legislation attempts to strike the proper balance between consumer privacy and innovation by requiring entities to provide consumers, in clear and easy to understand language, what information is being collected and how the information is being used. By giving the consumer more notice and choice, we can encourage strong Internet commerce while protecting consumer privacy.

Overreaching privacy regulations could have a significant, negative economic impact at a time when many small businesses are struggling today. Only the consumer knows how he or she feels about the information being collected, the parties doing the collecting, and the purpose for which the information is collected. Congress cannot and should not make that decision for them. We need to place the control